

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Halogen-containing polymer compositions comprising a latent  
mercaptan-containing heat stabilizer composition substantially  
free from the offensive odor typically associated with mercaptans  
are protected during processing by the degradation products of  
the latent (i.e., blocked) mercaptan which include a free  
mercaptan. Other products of the degradation are believed to  
10 include carbocations of the blocking moiety which are stabilized  
by a molecular structure in which the electron deficiency is  
shared by several groups. The latent mercaptan may be the sole  
heat stabilizer additive but the free mercaptan released during  
processing may also synergize the activity of metal-based heat  
15 stabilizers such as metal salts and organometallic stabilizers  
such as organotin carboxylates and mercaptides in the polymer  
composition. The odor of primary mercaptan-containing heat  
stabilizers in halogenated polymer compositions is masked by a  
small amount of a latent mercaptan. The latent mercaptans also  
20 serve as intermediates in the preparation of anti-oxidants, anti-  
microbial agents, photostabilizers, and primary heat stabilizers.  
Highly effective heat stabilizers are prepared by the  
condensation of formaldehyde and a para-phenol and further  
condensation of the crude product with a mercapto-containing  
25 compound.

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